

What if?

What if animals saw our emotions the minute they were in our presence?

Better yet, what if animals knew our state in the instant they directed their attention toward us, whether or not they were in our presence?

What if animals could perceive each of our soul's challenges, our reasons for being on this earth, the tasks that our spirits have taken up?

What if animals chose to accompany us on this earth so that they could complement our soul's journey and aid us in our evolution?

What if animals could perceive in any situation what the highest outcome might be, and choose to shape their actions in service of that outcome, even if, in the moment, their actions appeared to us as inconvenient, stubborn, or hostile?

What if animals who lived with us shaped their personalities to mirror us; being strong where we are weak, and weak where we are strong?

What if animals living together always divided the duties among the group, so that each animal did the job for which her/his personality was best suited, and together with the contributions of each member, the group functioned as a coherent whole?

What if no job that any animal performed in a group was more important than any other job?

What if the nervous animal who cowered when she sensed strangers approaching two miles away was crucial to the survival of the group?

What if the group valued the protector animal who was the first to meet the oncoming stranger as much as the nervous animal who announced the stranger?

What if animals, always seeking to evolve, provoked other animals in order to summon bravery in them, so that what looks like an aggressive animal may be a benevolent animal seeking to make another animal aware of her potential for bravery?

What if, the bigger the group of animals living together, the more specialized the duties of each animal within that group? What if in a pack of a hundred, each animal has a very specialized duty, and in a pack of two, each animals' duties are very broad? So that in a group of a hundred animals, one animal might be the "coordinator of all the messages from the yearlings" and in a pack of two, one animal might be "protector, aggressor, food finder, and she-who-eats-first."

What if the best way to heal the animals we live with is simply to heal ourselves?

What if everything we know about medicine and the body paled in comparison to some animals' ability to heal our body and the energy surrounding it? What if this gesture on the part of animals is so subtle and deep that many of us do not perceive it?

What if we choose to stay at the level of what words can represent and we spend our lives running from one place to another doing "important task" after "important task," and "thinking," and we miss the healing gesture that animals perform with every breath?

What if "thinking" were a distraction, a subterfuge, from what was really important?

What if the center of our intelligence was not in our brain, but simultaneously in and around our entire body?

What if animals' sense of their group extended beyond the animals and people they live with? What if some animals are conscious of the other animals of their species who live on the other side of the world? What if some animals are conscious of the state of the entire world?

What if animals who live in "terrible situations" have a sense of service in these situations? What if animals living in restricted quarters at the zoo feel that in so doing they are representing their species to the humans, which in some way might help the other members of their species still in the wild?

What if the sound animals make upon passing aids them in their transition?

What if animals sleep next to us at night not just to warm themselves, but to journey with us in our dreams?

What if this were true? What would you have to lose?